31st January 1931]

Hunger-strike in jails.

* 345 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the jails and the number of times in each jail the political prisoners went on hunger-strike, the respective periods of duration of each strike, and the number of prisoners involved each time?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 192. The Government have no information for the period subsequent to October 1930.

Canals

Length, etc., of the Buckingham Canal.

* 346 Q.—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what was the original length of the Buckingham Canal and what is its present length;

(b) what were the breadth and depth of the Buckingham Canal when it was first dug and what are its present depth and breadth;

(c) what parts of the canal are now silted up and by how much and why;

(d) what was the minimum depth of water when the Buckingham Canal was originally dug up and what it is now; and

(e) what was the average number of boats per year plying in the Buckingham Canal between 1900 and 1915 and what it is now?

A.—(a) The original canal cut in 1806 ran 11 miles north of Madras and was known as 'Cochrane's canal.' In 1878 it was named 'Buckingham Canal.' Its length was then 196 miles. Its present length is 262 miles.

(b) In 1882 the canal bed was 30 feet wide north of Madras and 20 feet wide south of Madras and its depth about 4½ feet below M.S.L. The Government have not information regarding the present average depth and breadth but have called for it.

(c) & (d) The Government have called for a report.

(e) The figures for the years 1900—1915 and for 1928–29 are given below:—

	Cargo boats.	Passenger boats.	
1900–01	14,719	5,238	Number of trips of boats.
1901–02	19,985	4,230	
1902–03	21,080	4,641	
1903–04	15,938	6,518	
1904–05	20,186	6,369	
1905–06	24,504	5,471	
1906–07	20,700	6,814	
1907–08	22,535	6,984	
1908–09	20,979	6,970	
1909–10	17,403	8,806	
1910–11	13,989	655	
1911–12	13,000	1,049	
1912–13	864	682	Number of boats.
1913–14	907	706	
1914–15	891	693	
1928–29	2,351 (cargo and passenger).		